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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/702,127	10/30/2000	James P. Alexander	CA9200000 US1	8742

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EXAMINER
NGUYEN, CHAU T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2176	

DATE MAILED: 04/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

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	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/702,127	ALEXANDER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Chau Nguyen	2176

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>02 March 2005</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-18</u> is/are pending in the application.

   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-18</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

   1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

   2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

   3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other:_____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 03/02/2005 has been entered. Claims 1-18 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2.   The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3.   Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4.   Claim 1 recites the limitation "operating the web-based application database" on page 2 of the remarks. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed
> or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the
> subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject
> matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made
> to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was
> made.

6.   Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Chouinard, US Patent No. 6,671,701, Campbell et al (Campbell), US Patent No.

6,856,970, and further in view of Brandt et al. (Brandt), US Patent No. 6,714,979.

7.   As to claims 1 and 8-12, Chouinard discloses a method of synchronizing

communications messages between a first back office system and a web-based

application in a computer network, wherein the first back office system comprises a first

back office database and a plurality of nodes for creating documents, the nodes

communicating with the first back office database, the documents each being identified

with a primary key code and a timestamp designating the time of creation of each

document, and the back office system generates document messages, the document

messages each comprising one of the documents and primary key code and timestamp information for the one of the documents, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving in the web-based application a stream of the document messages from the back office system (col. 3, line 57 – col. 4, line 55, col. 5, lines 11-22 and col. 7, lines 47-63: file server 106 acts as file manager (web-based application) receives, stores, and transmits files of data (stream of document messages) between LAN members, and data files created respectively at workstations 103 and 104 (back office system) may be routed to file server 106, the files of data may be submitted and retrieved via an application server then can be accessed by the user via the internet, the files of data can be stored on database server such as an Internet-based);

operating the web-based application database to maintain inbound document message information comprising primary key codes and said timestamps for selected document messages previously received by the web-based application database (Abstract, and col. 2, lines 14-44: a time and date stamp of the destination file is stored in a database);

comparing the primary key code of a new inbound document message received by the web-based application database with primary key codes maintained in the web-based application database for the previously received document messages (Abstract and col. 2, lines 14-44: for source files encountered for a second or subsequent time, the date and time stamps of all of the source files are compared against the database that contains file names, date and time information for destination files);

selecting a pair of corresponding document messages by identifying any one previously received document message having a primary key code corresponding with the primary key code of the new inbound message (col. 7, lines 12-32: detecting any source files that are a newer version than the corresponding destination files);

identifying the more recent document message in the selected pair of corresponding document messages by comparing the timestamp of the previously received document message in the message pair with the timestamp of the new inbound message in the message pair (Abstract, col. 2, lines 14-44 and col. 6, line 57 – col. 7, line 32: detecting any source files that are a newer version than the corresponding destination files); and

updating the web-based application database to record the inbound document message information for the more recent document message, the unique inbound document message; and the timestamps for the more recent and the unique inbound document messages (col. 2, lines 14-44 and col. 7, lines 12-32: replacing the previous time and date stamp in the database with the time and date stamp of the new conversion and saving the updated destination file in the destination directory in place of the previous destination file).

Chouinard discloses the files of data may be submitted and retrieved via an application server then can be accessed by the user via the internet, the files of data can be stored on database server such as an Internet-based (col. 3, line 57 – col. 4, line 55, col. 5, lines 11-22 and col. 7, lines 47-63). In addition, to support the teaching of

"receiving in the web-based application a stream of the document messages from the back office system" more clear, Campbell provides financial institution clients with a single point of access, and clients can use a web-based workstation to interface with a plurality of back office system within one or more financial institutions (Abstract and col. 2, lines 21-63). Campbell also discloses web server is operable to transmit data to and receive data from at least one user via a network interface (col. 2, line 64 – col. 3, line 15). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Campbell and Chouinard to include receiving in the web-based application a stream of the document messages form the back office system in order to eliminate the multitude of user interfaces and passwords and the management thereof.

However, Chouinard and Campbell do not explicitly disclose selecting a unique new inbound document message by identifying any new inbound document message with a primary key code which does not correspond to any of the primary key codes maintained in the web-based application database. Brandt discloses a telecommunications data management/system architecture integrated with a novel Web/Internet based reporting system includes a file is read and compared to the NPA/NXX table and the country code, NPA, NXX, City Name, and State Name are used to see if that exact combination exists, and if it does not, then it will be added to the NPA/NXX table and added to the dimension add file (col. 3, line 60 – col. 4, line 23 and col. 17, line 51 – col. 18, line 6). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary

skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Brandt and Chouinard and Campbell to include selecting a unique new inbound document message by identifying any new inbound document message with a primary key code which does not correspond to any of the primary key codes maintained in the web-based application database. Brandt's data management system permits use of existing hardware while allowing further growth to utilize new equipment at less cost and further allows for incremental expansion as applications and database capacities.

8.   As to claims 2, 14 and 16, Chouinard, Campbell, and Brandt disclose wherein the primary key comprises document type information and document identification information (Chouinard, col. 2, lines 14-44).

9.   As to claim 3, Chouinard, Campbell, and Brandt disclose wherein the inbound document messages are communicated to an inbound queue prior to communication to the web-based application database (Chouinard, col. 4, lines 11-17).

10.   As to claims 4 and 13, Chouinard, Campbell, and Brandt disclose wherein the inbound document messages are communicated to a multi-threaded inbound message processor prior to communication to the web-based application database (Brandt, col. 27, line 66 – col. 28, line 7. Brandt's system would support processing and storage of customer's data in a form suitable for expedient access and presentation as a report for customers over the World Wide Web/Internet).

11.   As to claim 5, Chouinard, Campbell, and Brandt disclose wherein the inbound

document messages are generated by a multi-port message generator (Brandt, col. 11,

lines 6-27: Using multi-port message generator would provide process data or

messages faster, more efficient and for load balancing).

12.   As to claim 6, Chouinard, Campbell, and Brandt disclose logging an error when a

new inbound message in a selected of a corresponding document messages does not

have the more recent timestamp in the selected pair (Brandt, col. 7, lines 20-24, col. 14,

lines 45 – col. 5, line 20: Brandt's system would support processing and storage of

customer's data in a form suitable for expedient access and presentation as a report for

customers over the World Wide Web/Internet).

13.   As to claim 7, Chouinard, Campbell, and Brandt disclose identifying the new

inbound message in a selected pair of corresponding document messages which does

not have the more recent timestamp in the selected pair and segregating said new

message from further processing according to a predetermined process path (Brandt,

col. 15, line 51 – col. 16, line 7: for the purpose of support processing and storage of

customer's data in a form suitable for expedient access and presentation as a report for

customers over the World Wide Web/Internet).

14. As to claims 15, 17 and 18, Chouinard, Campbell, and Brandt disclose wherein the document type information includes at least one of order confirmation, order delivery, order invoice, product inventory updates, product price updates and customer information updates (Campbell, col. 15, lines 50-62, col. 16, line 39 – col. 18, line 34).

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments, filed 03/02/2005 with respect to claims 1-18, have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Please see the rejection above.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chau Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4092. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild, can be reached at (571) 272-4090.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Chau Nguyen
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2176

JOSEPH FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER